

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEETING OF FONMINS OF ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY

REF: MVD A-171, NOVEMBER 24, 1973

1. SUMMARY: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF URUGUAY AND ARGENTINA MET FOR FIVE HOURS FEBRUARY 25TH IN THE URUGUAYAN CITY OF SALTO. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TWOFOLD - TO SIGN THE STATUE OF THE URUGUAY RIVER AND TO INSPECT THE PROGRESS OF THE SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION REAFFIRMING THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS' DESIRE AND

INTENTION TO CONTINUE BILATERAL COOPERATION TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWO NATIONS. THE URUGUAYAN FM STRESSED THE WIDER MULTINATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE SIGNING WHILE THE ARGENTINE FM LAID MORE EMPHASIS ON THE COMMON DESTINY OF THEIR COUNTRIES. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AGREED TO REOPEN STALLED AIR TRANSPORT NEGOTIATIONS. THE DECLARATION ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT MARIA ESTALA PERON WOULD SOON VISIT URUGUAY. END SUMMARY.

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2. JOINT DECLARATION OF ARGENTINE AND URUGUAYAN FOREIGN MINISTERS. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DECLARED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE SALTO MEETING WAS TO INSPECT THE SALTO GRANDE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT AND TO SIGN THE URUGUAY RIVER STATUTE. THE DECLARATION SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR AIDES ALSO REVIEWED THE FOLLOWING MATTERS. ARGENTINE/URUGUAYAN ECONOMIC AGREEMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT, ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION AND A MIXED TECHNICAL COMMISSION UNDER THE RIVER PLATE AND MARITIME BOUNDARY TREATY, PROGRESS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PAYSANDU-COLON AND FRAY BENTOS-PUERTO UNZUE BRIDGES, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ELECTRIC POWER GRID, AND UPCOMING MEETINGS TO NEGOTIATE AN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR GOVERNMENTS' WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE ON A PATH OF CLOSE COLLABORATION AND EXPRESSED THE FIRM INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN FRATERNAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE PLATE RIVER. FINALLY, THE DECLARATION SAYS THE ARGENTINE FM TRANSMITTED TO HIS URUGUAYAN COLLEAGUE ASSURANCES THAT PRESIDENT PERON WILL SOON VISIT URUGUAY AND THAT IT WILL BE THE FIRST FOREIGN VISIT OF THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT.

3. THE STATUE OF THE URUGUAY RIVER. THE STATUE IS MODELED ON THE TREATY OF THE RIVER PLATE (SEE REF), A MIXED COMMISSION IS FORMED TO CONTROL THE USE AND ENVIRONMENT OF THE RIVER. THE COMMISSION WILL ALSO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER BINATIONAL PROJECTS ON THE RIVER SUCH AS THE BRIDGES AND DAM NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION. THERE IS PROVISION FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES WITH ULTIMATE JURISDICTION BEING THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

4. SPEECHES OF BLANCO AND VIGNES. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SPOKE FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT. BLANCO MADE PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST 15 MONTHS, INCLUDING THOSE MENTIONED IN THE DECLARATION OF SALTO. THE POINT WAS STRONGLY MADE THAT THE ALL OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THOSE MADE IN THE FUTURE ARE NOT MERELY EXCLUSIVE AND SELF-CENTERED, BUT ARE A GENEROUS OPENING TOWARD LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE RIVER PLATE COUNTRIES, IN TURN, THE ARGENTINE FM SPOKE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF BINATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY AND REFERRED TO A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT UNITES THE PEOPLE OF THE TWO NATIONS. THE

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ARGENTINE FM ALSO LOOKED FORWARD TO FURTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT WOULD ONCE AND FOR ALL PUT THE TWO NATIONS AMONG THE RANKS OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

5. COMMENT: THE MEETING WHILE ONLY LASTING 5 HOURS, NOT ONLY SERVED FOR THE SIGNING OF THIS IMPORTANT AGREEMENT BUT TO AGAIN EMPHASIZE THE GOOD RELATIONS THE TWO NATIONS ARE ENJOYING. THE

PRESS HAD SPECULATED THAT PRESIDENT PERON WOULD MEET WITH BORDABERRY AT THE SIGNING BUT ANY DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT BEING ABLE TO STAGE THIS MEETING SHOULD BE COUNTERACTED BY THE GOA PROMISE THAT PERON'S FIRST FOREIGN TRIP WOULD BE TO URUGUAY AND IT WOULD BE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BLANCO'S EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL RELATIONS REFLECTS THE GOU'S POLICY TO FORTIFY RELATIONS NOT ONLY WITH ARGENTINA, BUT WITH ALL ITS CLOSE NEIGHBORS, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, AND PARAGUAY, AND TO ACHIEVE BILATERALLY THE DESIRED REGIONAL INTEGRATION WHICH HAS BEEN MOVING SO SLOWLY IN THE MULTILATERAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

IN A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 27, BLANCO REFERRED TO HIS MEETING WITH VIGNES AND STATES THAT THE GOU'S INTENTION IS NOT TO PLAY ARGENTINA OFF AGAINST BRAZIL OR VICE VERSA BUT RATHER TO BRING BOTH INTO A REGIONAL INTEGRATION (HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES, POWER INTERCONNECTIONS, ETC.) WHICH WOULD EMPHASIZE INTERDEPENDENCE.

6. GDS.
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